

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 170387
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:TMARTIN

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:TMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 170387

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 4095 ACTION STATE JULY 21.

QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 4095

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: BEGIN VISIT

REF: STATE 170055

1. KING RECEIVED ME SHORTLY AFTER NOON ON JULY 21 AND I PASSED ON
TO HIM INFORMATION REFTEL PARAS 2 THROUGH 10.

2. AFTER WE HAD FINISHED AND BEFORE ANYTHING FURTHER COULD BE SAID,
HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD ONE POINT OF CONCERN. "THE US MORE AND MORE
WAS ACTING LIKE A POSTMAN BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. WHAT HAS
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BECOME OF THE POSITIONS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN IN THE PAST
ON THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PEACE SETTLEMENT." I TOLD HIM IN REPLY
THAT I WAS GLAD HE HAD ASKED THE QUESTION BECAUSE
I WAS ABOUT TO RAISE A POINT WITH HIM WHICH WAS DIRECTLY RELEVANT.

3. I THEN SAID, DRAWING ON PARA 11 REFTEL, THAT IT WAS MY FIRM
IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WERE FOLLOWING A VERY

CAREFUL STRATEGY IN DEVELOPING THE US POSITION WITH AN EYE TO US PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION. THIS HAD TO BE THEIR DECISION. I ADDED THAT I HAD GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE AND TO ASSURE HIM THAT WHILE WE WOULD NOT BE REPEATING OUR PAST POSITIONS IN THE DAYS AHEAD ON THE POINTS HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT, HE SHOULD REST ASSURED THAT OUR POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED AND THAT SECRETARY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO MAKE THAT CLEAR TO HIM WHEN HE CAME TO AMMAN. IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT THERE WAS IN THIS ANALYSIS CONCERN THAT ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION WITH US PUBLIC WAS IN JEOPARDY, I ALSO SAID I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS WISE STRATEGY TO TREAT BEGIN WITH SAME DEGREE OF POLITENESS AND HOSPITALITY AS THE ARAB VISITORS WERE TREATED AND TO AVOID ALLOWING HIM TO BECOME A KIND OF MARTYR BY SEEKING A CONFRONTATION WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON, ESPECIALLY DURING HIS FIRST VISIT. KING ACCEPTED THIS POINT AND SAID NEVERTHELESS THAT HE HOPED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME US WOULD BE PREPARED TO REPEAT MAJOR POINTS IN ITS POSITION IN PUBLIC. HE IMPLIED, BUT DID NOT SAY, THAT ARABS MIGHT BE LOSING CONFIDENCE IN OUR STAYING POWER. IN ORDER TO REASSURE HIM THROUGHOUT THIS EXCHANGE, WHILE CLAIMING THAT THESE OBSERVATIONS WERE MY OWN ASSESSMENT, I TRIED TO GIVE HIM THE FEELING THAT THIS WAS BASED ON MORE THAN A "HOMECOOKED" ANALYSIS BY ME. I BELIEVE IT HELPED CONSIDERABLY TO ALLAY HIS CONCERNS.

4. IN ADDITION, I POINTED OUT TO HIM THE APPROACH WHICH SECRETARY PLANNED TO TAKE ON HIS VISIT HERE OF SEEING HOW SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 COULD BE EXPANDED AND
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SUPPLEMENTED WITH A POSSIBLE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. THIS, I POINTED OUT TO KING, SHOULD ALSO BE REASSURING IN CONTEXT OF HIS CONCERNS THAT WE HAD BECOME MERELY A TRANSMISSION BELT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

5. TURNING TO YOUR TRIP, HE ASKED AGAIN ABOUT DATES. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD SEEN REPORT THAT WHITE HOUSE HAD INDICATED THAT TRIP WOULD BEGIN AROUND AUGUST FIRST AND THAT PM BEGIN HAD SAID THAT ISRAEL WAS EXPECTING YOU AUGUST 7 AND 8. THUS I CONCLUDED YOU WOULD BE VISITING THE ARAB COUNTRIES BETWEEN THOSE TWO DATES IF PRESS STATEMENTS WERE CORRECT. THIS SEEMED, I SAID, TO FIT WELL WITH THE DATES ON WHICH KING HAD INDICATED HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE. KING AGREED AND ASKED AGAIN IF I COULD LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE FINAL DATES. I SAID I WOULD BE IN TOUCH AS SOON AS I HEARD FROM YOU ON THIS POINT.

6. PRIOR TO SEEING KING, NEWSWEEK'S DE BORCHGRAVE JOINED ME IN THE WAITING ROOM. HE IS TO INTERVIEW KING TODAY. HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE ME TEXT OF HIS ASAD AND HUSSEIN INTERVIEW. HE SAID FORMER HAD JUST BEEN TELEXED TO DAMASCUS FOR CORRECTIONS. WILL FORWARD TEXTS WHEN AND IF AVAILABLE. HE GOES TO ALEXANDRIA TOMORROW TO SEE SADAT.

7. FOR NEA: ONE SMALL POINT: PARA 5 REFTEL SPEAKS OF WIRELESS
FILE COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT' AND WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN'S WEDNESDAY
REMARKS ON BEGIN VISIT. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED WEDNESDAY COVERAGE
AS OF THURSDAY MORNING AND IT WOULD HELP CONSIDERABLY IF,
IN CASES THIS SORT, WE DID NOT HAVE TO RELY ON SOMEWHAT MERCURIAL
WIRELESS FILE FOR KEY POLICY STATEMENTS CONNECTED WITH
HIGH LEVEL INSTRUCTIONS.
PICKERING UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

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